

SUBJECT: LATIN AMERICA BRIEF

FOR 29 OCTOBER

1993.

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1. HAITI: DEVELOPMENTS

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ARISTIDE UNCOMPROMISING

ARISTIDE YESTERDAY TOLD THE UN HE WOULD CONVOKE THE LEGISLATURE TO PASS AN AMNESTY LAW AS SOON AS MILITARY AND POLICE LEADERS RESIGN. HE ALSO URGED PRIME MINISTER MALVAL TO RETAIN HIS POST. MALVAL LATER ANNOUNCED THAT HE WOULD STAY ON, BUT ARISTIDE'S INFLEXIBILITY HAS DISCOURAGED HIS BACKERS IN HAITI,

COMMENT: ARISTIDE'S POSITION ON AMNESTY HAS REINFORCED THE STRONGLY HELD VIEW OF MANY IN THE MILITARY THAT THE EXILED PRESIDENT IS INTERESTED MAINLY IN REVENGE AGAINST THE INSTITUTION THAT OUSTED HIM. SOLDIERS ALMOST CERTAINLY WILL SEE HIS LATEST TERMS FOR AN AMNESTY LAW AS A BLUFF. MALVAL HAS SEESAWED ON THE ISSUE OF RESIGNATION, AND AN INCREASE IN VIOLENCE OR A QUARREL HITH ARISTIDE PROBABLY WOULD PROMPT HIM TO REVERSE HIS DECISION.

MILITARY MORE CONFIDENT

CEDRAS AND FRANCOIS APPARENTLY BELIEVE THAT FOREIGN MILITARY INTERVENTION IS UNLIKELY AS LONG AS THEY MAINTAIN ORDER AND THAT GROWING REGIONAL CRITICISM OF THE EMBARGO AND ITS EFFECT ON THE POPULACE WILL FORCE THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY TO COMPROMISE. THEY

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PROBABLY HOPE A NEW ELECTION WOULD GIVE THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY A GRACEFUL WAY TO ABANDON ARISTIDE OR AT LEAST TO DILUTE ITS RESOLVE AND ALLEVIATE PRESSURE ON THE REGIME.

